

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SYE-00 CPR-01 USSS-00 NSC-05

SS-15 L-03 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /063 W

-----007149 010645Z /13

R 312107Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7342

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 5519

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, PN, GT, BH

SUBJ: COMMUNIQUE ON LAUGERUD DECISION TO ATTEND CANAL CEREMONY

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY: CONTRARY TO PRESS SPECULATION THAT PRESIDENT WOULD NOT ATTEND PANAMA CANAL TREATY SIGNING CEREMONY OWING TO NON-RELATIONS WITH TORRIJOS GOVERNMENT, GOG ISSUED COMMUNIQUE AUGUST 30 ANNOUNCING LAUGERUD WILL ATTEND. COMMUNIQUE EXPLAINS DECISION IS CONSISTENT WITH GOG'S LONG-STANDING SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA ON THE CANAL ISSUE. WITH EYE TO BELIZE ISSUE COMMUNIQUE CHOOSES TO INTERPRET LA POLICY CHANGES USHERED IN BY CANAL TREATY AS EMBRACING US OPPOSITION TO "COLONIZATION OR MILITARY OCCUPATION" OF HEMISPHERIC TERRITORIES. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF TEXT FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY.

2. "THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, GENERAL KJELL E. LAUGERUD, HAS BEEN INVITED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, MR. JIMMY CARTER, TO ATTEND THE SEPTEMBER 7 SIGNING OF THE NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY. THE (OTHER) LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS AND CHIEFS OF STATE HAVE RECEIVED THE SAME INVITATION.

3. "AS IS KNOWN, GUATEMALA AND PANAMA DO NOT HAVE  
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DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THESE WERE BROKEN BY GUATEMALA AFTER THE PANAMANIAN CHIEF OF STATE OFFERED HIS COLLABORATION FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF BELIZE.

4. "ON TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO SEVER RELATIONS, GUATEMALA EXPLAINED THAT ITS DECISION WAS BASED EXCLUSIVELY UPON THE CONDUCT OF THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT

TO THE BELIZE PROBLEM; GUATEMALA MAINTAINED ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE CANAL, A SOLIDARITY WHICH OUR PEOPLE HAVE NOURISHED FOR MANY YEARS.

5. "THE GOG CONSIDERS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S INVITATION TO LEADERS OF THE CONTINENT IS INTENDED TO SIGNIFY A NEW U.S. POLICY TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA, INCLUDED IN WHICH IS A REJECTION OF ANY FORM OF COLONIZATION OR MILITARY OCCUPATION OF TERRITORIES BE IT FROM CONTINENTAL OR EXTRA-CONTINENTAL POWERS, AND OF WHICH THE NEW TREATY ON THE CANAL IS AN EXAMPLE OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE.

6. "IN ADDITION, THE GOG CONSIDERS THAT THE CAUSE OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE FOR A CANAL REGIME THAT RECOGNIZES ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE IS A CAUSE WHICH THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE HAVE PRESSED FOR THE LENGTH OF THEIR HISTORY. THE RECOVERY OF THE CANAL IS NOT THE WORK OF ANY PARTICULAR PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT OR CHIEF OF STATE, BUT RATHER THE SUM OF PANAMANIAN NATIONAL EFFORTS WHICH ARE NOW SUCCESSFULLY CULMINATING.

7. "IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRECEDING AND AS A FRESH DEMONSTRATION THAT THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA LOYALLY MAINTAIN THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA IN THEIR STRUGGLE TO RECOVER THE CANAL, AND AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROOF THAT THE GOG IS FAITHFUL TO ITS COMMITMENTS, PRESIDENT KJELL E. LAUGERUD HAS ACCEPTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S INVITATION TO BE PRESENT IN WASHINGTON ON THE DATE INDICATED.

8. "FOR THE APPROPRIATE CONSTITUTIONAL PURPOSES, TODAY THE RELEVANT REQUEST (TO ABSENT HIMSELF FROM THE COUNTRY) HAS BEEN SENT TO THE CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC." END UNCLASSIFIED.

9. COMMENT: WE ANTICIPATE NO SIGNIFICANT LOCAL CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO ATTEND.  
BOSTER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, PGOV, PN, GT, BH, (LAUGEUD GARCIA, KJELL)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009